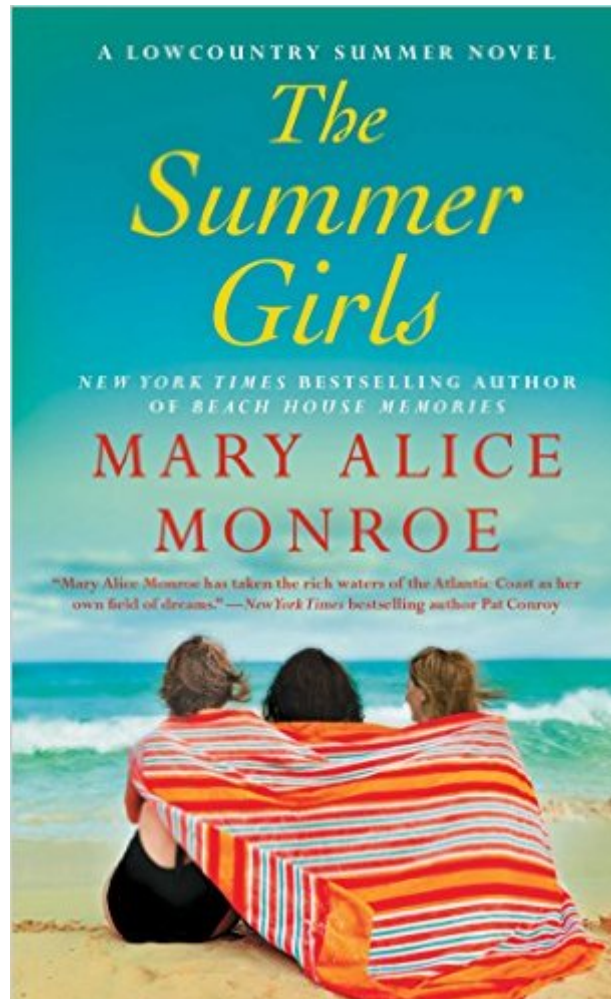


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# The Summer Girls (Lowcountry Summer)



## Synopsis

In this enchanting novel set on Sullivan's Island, South Carolina, New York Times bestselling author Mary Alice Monroe captures the complex relationships between three half sisters scattered across the country and a grandmother determined to help them rediscover their family bonds. Three granddaughters. Three months. One summer house. In this enchanting trilogy set on Sullivan's Island, South Carolina, New York Times bestselling author Mary Alice Monroe captures the complex relationships between three half sisters scattered across the country and a grandmother determined to help them rediscover their family bonds. Set amid ancient live oaks and palmettos, overlooking the water, historic Sea Breeze is Marietta Muir's ancestral summer home. Her granddaughters once adored vacations there, but it's been years since they've visited. Mamaw fears once she is gone, the family bonds will fray. The Muir family is one of Charleston's oldest and the blood of their pirate captain ancestor runs strong, so Marietta drops a subtle promise of loot—pearl necklaces, priceless antique furniture, even the house—to lure her summer girls back to the lowcountry. For years, Carson Muir has drifted, never really settling, certain only that a life without the ocean is a life half lived. Adrift and penniless in California, Carson is the first to return to Sea Breeze, wondering where things went wrong . . . until the sea she loves brings her a minor miracle. Her astonishing bond with a dolphin helps Carson renew her relationships with her sisters and face the haunting memories of her ill-fated father. As the rhythms of the island open her heart, Carson begins to imagine the next steps toward her future. In this heartwarming novel, three sisters discover the true treasures Sea Breeze offers as surprising truths are revealed, mistakes forgiven, and precious connections made that will endure long beyond one summer.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The Summer Girls" is a satisfying read -- better than a beach book which, to me, implies a certain amount of lightness and fluff. Mary Alice Monroe is at her best here, weaving a tale of family, of young women finding themselves, anchored by their grandmother and a strong sense of place. You will learn to care for each of the main characters, Mamaw's "girls," as they find their way down life's rocky paths. And, as in nearly all of her books, there is an environmental plot, this one about dolphins. So, not only do you get great story, you get an environmental message and learn new things along the way. Who could ask for more? This book is the first in a trilogy, so already Mary Alice's fans are clamoring for number two.

Mary Alice Monroe weaves the lives of three estranged sisters into a beautiful tapestry of reconciliation. It happens over one last summer at their Grandmother's home on Sullivan's Island, S.C. Being "forced" (by conditions set in their father's will) to spend an entire summer on the island with one another one final time does not set well with any of them. Each brings her own "baggage" with her to the island and just wants to be left alone by the others, including their grandmother whose home it is where they are staying. One of the sisters brings her autistic child with her for the summer and much of the book revolves around him, one of his aunts, and a dolphin. Together the summer girls begin to enjoy the island as broken fences begin to mend. It is truly a beautiful and touching story that I would highly recommend!

Mary Alice Monroe's books combine a beautiful story with accurate and interesting information about the wildlife of the South Carolina low country. The Summer Girls is the story of "Mamaw" Muir and her three very different granddaughters. It is also the first of a trilogy where you will learn about wild bottle nosed dolphins in the Atlantic Ocean. I'm sure you will not be disappointed and will want to read the second and third books in this series. It really is one of Monroe's best novels.

If you have not read any of Mary Alice Monroe's books, you are missing out on some very special reading! When I "discovered" her in 2011, I read all 11 of her books in less than 3 months. Then I eagerly awaited the release of Beach House Memories last summer and was not disappointed.

While I am partial to the beach house series because of my love of loggerhead turtles and my breast cancer connection to *Time Is a River*, the *Summer Girls* may be my new favorite MAM book. I was immediately drawn into the tender, but complicated relationships between Mamaw and her 3 granddaughters, each with her own baggage. But as you meet each of the summer girls, you will come to love them for their individuality and to cheer for them to overcome their challenges, especially Carson with her own demons and her extraordinary connection with a dolphin. Whenever I read an enjoyable book, I am anxious to see how it ends, but sad when it does end; and *The Summer Girls* is definitely one of those books. Imagine how ecstatic I was to read the on the very last line: "End of Book One". There is more to come and I can't wait! Clemson, SC

This story about three grand daughters that gather to celebrate their grandmothers' birthday is lightweight and spotty. Despite there being three grand daughters, only one of them is fleshed out enough so you know enough about her life to be interested. And even with that, I wasn't that interested; in fact the book is part of a trilogy and this books leaves you hanging about what will happen, but you know what? I don't care enough to pick up the second book. Even the grandmother kept hinting at big secrets and the fact that she would reveal "all" to her grand daughters, but that fizzled out too. It is a tried and true premise to bring together a family, especially multigenerational, but this story fell flat and lost momentum way before the book was half over. What does it say about character development if the most interesting thing in the book is a dolphin? Exactly.

With engaging prose that captured me from the opening lines, *The Summer Girls* (Lowcountry Summer Book 1) takes the reader on a voyage of discovery. A special wish and invitation from an aging grandmother brings three half-sisters to the lowcountry in South Carolina, and to a beach house that was a wonderful part of their childhoods. Dora (Eudora), Carson, and Harper, all named after Southern authors by their wannabe-author-father, Parker, have been separated from one another by their life circumstances, and only brought together occasionally at Sea Breeze, their grandmother's summer home. Marietta Muir is an intriguing, eighty-year-old character who is used to getting what she wants. And what she especially wants is for her granddaughters, her only living heirs (her son died years before) to cement the bonds they once had together. She lures them in with promises...and then divulges some secrets. Carson's life is in a shambles, her TV series canceled and her money gone. Dora's husband Calhoun left her when he could no longer handle their autistic son. And Harper has been under her controlling mother's thumb for too long. Will the reunion summer on Sullivan's Island be the answer for each of them? Will they find that special

something that will turn their lives around? And how does the presence of a unique dolphin in the cove help Carson find the ability to connect? A delightful beginning to a trilogy that I am looking forward to, this novel earned 5 stars.

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